

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-11, and 16-21 are currently pending in the present application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 3-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0066042 A1, hereafter “Matsumoto”) and Suzuki (U.S. Patent No. 6,612,488 B2) in view of Hymel (U.S. Patent No. 6,216,015, hereafter “Hymel”) and Howard et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0212465).

Briefly recapitulating, the present invention (claim 1) is directed to a communication system including a settlement management apparatus and a portable information terminal. The settlement management apparatus includes, among other things, a storage controller configured to store, when judging means decides that identification information is valid, the identification information in the portable information terminal. The portable information terminal includes, among other things, a wireless reader configured to read the identification information from a contactless IC chip provided in a credit card; storage means including (a) memory means partitioned into a common area and a plurality of individually allotted areas (hereinafter referred to as “the memory partition feature”), and (b) memory manager means for storing the identification information including a card ID and an associated registered service information in the common area. The common area is configured to store information other than service provider provided information. Such a configuration enables a plurality of applications utilizing the wireless reader to access a common area of the memory and form without constraint a region where data is stored. See the Specification page 32, lines 5-12.

Independent Claim 3 is directed to the settlement management apparatus and defines, among other things, a storage controller configured to store the identification information including a card ID corresponding to the contactless IC chip and an associated registered

service in a common area of a memory of the portable information terminal when said judging means decides that the identification information is valid; and management means for managing registration information of a plurality of merchandise each of which has been registered via a merchandise registration procedure with said settlement management apparatus and each of which has a corresponding barcode generated by said management means, and for managing communication with individually allotted areas of the memory of the portable information terminal.

Independent claim 6 is directed to a settlement management method, claim 10 is directed to an information processing method, and independent claims 7 and 11 are directed to a computer readable carrier including program instructions that cause a computer to implement a method of settlement. Claims 6, 7, 10, and 11 define the memory partition feature of the present invention.

Independent Claim 8 is directed to the portable information terminal and defines the memory partition feature of the present invention.

In contrast to the present invention, Matsumoto fails to teach or suggest a memory manager or the memory partition feature of the present invention. As illustrated in Figures 11 and 12 and stated in paragraphs [0111] and [0112], the mobile telephone 1 includes a memory 15 such as RAM or ROM. However, Matsumoto fails to teach or suggest that the memory 15 can be partitioned or managed by a memory manager. Suzuki merely illustrates in Figure 2 that telephone 100 includes memory 123. However, Suzuki does not teach or suggest that the memory 123 can be partitioned or managed by a memory manager. Consequently, Suzuki does not remedy the deficiencies of Matsumoto.

However, the official action asserts that Hymel teach a memory 38 partitioned into a plurality of memory segments 48, wherein each memory segment has an individual location in memory, and memory manager means for storing the card ID and an associated registered

service information in a common area. Applicants respectfully traverse the assertion that Hymel disclose a common area.

Hymel does teach that the memory 38 is partitioned into a plurality of memory segments 48. However, Hymel does not teach that one of the partitions is a common area. A memory segment is allocated for each smart card 44. Consequently, Hymel does not remedy the deficiencies of Matsumoto or Suzuki.

For the foregoing reasons, Matsumoto is not believed to anticipate the subject matter defined by the independent claims when considered alone or in combination with the applied secondary art including Hymel.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to remain and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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